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FROM: BERLIN

T0: Secretary of State

NO: 124, AUGUST 2, 4 PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 124, BONN 108, INFORMATION LONDON 64,
MOSCOW 61, PARIS 69, POLAD USAREUR 58.

PARIS FOR ENB, KOHLER, USRO, STOESSEL AND FINN.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S JULY 30 TELEVISION STATEMENT CHARACTER-
IZING REFUGEE SITUATION AS NEGOTIABLE POINT IN BERLIN
DISCUSSIONS HAS UNLEASHED STORM OF PROTEST AND INDIGNATION HERE.

RMR

EDITORIALS IN AFTERNOON KURIER (PRO CDU) AUG 1 AND MOST PAPERS AUG 2 VOICE DISMAY OVER REPORTED STATEMENT, CHARGING FULBRIGHT WITH DISREGARD OF BOTH FACTS AND MORAL ISSUES INVOLVED, AND EXPRESSING FEAR HIS STATEMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ANXIETY OF EAST GERMAN POPULATION WITH RESULT PRESENT UNPRECEDENTED REFUGEE FLOW WILL TURN INTO EVEN GREATER MASS FLIGHT FROM SOVZONE. COMMENTATORS ASSERT FULBRIGHT IGNORED HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION, SIGNED BY US 1948, WHICH GRANTS EVERY PERSON RIGHT TO MOVE FREELY WITHIN HIS COUNTRY AND BETWEEN NATIONS, AS WELL AS TREATY OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY SOVS 1949 TO FACILITATE FREE MOVEMENT BETWEEN ZONES OF GERMANY AND SECTORS OF BERLIN. TAGESSPIEGEL (INDEP) REFERRED TO FULBRIGHT REMARK AS "MORAL DEFEAT" WEST INFLICTED UPON ITSELF AND SAID IT WAS AT ANY RATE INCOMPREHENSIBLE WHY WEST HAD SO FAR TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST PANKOW'S MEASURES FOR REDUCTION OF REFUGEE FLOW WHICH IN VIOLATION OF RIGHT OF CIRCULATION WITHIN BERLIN. ACCORDING TO CONSENSUS OF COMMENTATORS, READINESS TO CLOSE "DOOR TO FREEDOM" IN BERLIN WOULD ENABLE COMMUNISTS REALIZE ONE OF THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVES AND LEAD TO REVISION WESTERN POSITION ON BERLIN.

WEST BERLIN

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-2- 124, AUGUST 2, 4 PM FROM BERLIN

WEST BERLIN PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTS PUBLIC REJECTIONS OF FULBRIGHT STATEMENT BY LEMMER, AMREHN, WEHNER, AND MENDE AND CITES "BONN CIRCLES" AS DESCRIBING STATEMENT AS "MORALLY AND POLITICALLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY."

AT YESTERDAY'S CALL ON GOVMAYOR (OURTEL 118 TO DEPT, 102 TO BONN) BRANDT VOICED GRAVE CONCERN OVER FULBRIGHT STATEMENT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FEAR STATEMENT WOULD STIMULATE PANIC ATTITUDES IN SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN, THUS SWELLING REFUGEE FLIGHT FROM EAST GERMANY BEYOND PRESENT PROPORTIONS. AMREHN AND LEMMER IN PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER VOICED SIMILAR CONCERN; LEMMER THOUGHT FULBRIGHT STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY PRESS "UNBELIEVABLE."

ALL EAST BERLIN PAPERS AUG 2, UNDER HEADLINES "US SENATOR OPPOSED TO SLAVE TRADERS," "FULBRIGHT FOR CLOSING OF RECRUITMENT CENTERS," AND "ALARM AMONG SLAVE TRADERS OVER FULBRIGHT'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL," SAID FULBRIGHT HAD EXPRESS OPINION THAT "SLAVE TRADE CENTERS IN WEST BERLIN" CANNOT BE MAINTAINED AND HAD SUGGESTED WEST SHOULD AGREE TO CLOSURE OF CAMPS. PAPERS QUOTED FULBRIGHT AS FOLLOWS: "I BELIEVE ONE WOULD NOT GIVE UP MUCH, BECAUSE ACCORDING TO MY OPINION THEY (GDR AND USSR) CAN, IF THEY WISH, CLOSE THEIR BORDERS WITHOUT VIOLATION OF TREATY RIGHTS (VERTRAGLICHES RECHT)." PAPERS FURTHER QUOTED FULBRIGHT AS OPPOSING POLICY OF "ULTIMATUMS AND TESTS OF STRENGTH" AND AS FAVORING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVS ON WEST BERLIN, BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR FEDREP, AND DIS-ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND DESCRIBED FULBRIGHT'S STATEMENTS AS REALISTIC POSITION ON WEST BERLIN AND SAID HIS REMARKS HAD CAUSED "LOUD ALARM", "GREATEST DISMAY," AND "ANGRY RETORTS" FROM BONN AND WEST BERLIN OFFICIAL CIRCLES, ESPECIALLY "ORGANIZER OF SLAVE TRADERS" FEDREP ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER LEMMER. NO SEPARATE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN EAST PRESS SO FAR.

TRJVERS

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